

64. (Currently Amended) A method of use as claimed in Claim 62, in which a gas phase and a liquid phase are separated after exit from a first turbulent contactor before entry into a second turbulent contactor, the phase separation ~~preferably~~ occurring in an annular flow generator.

REMARKS

Claims 33-64 are pending. Claims 33-43, 45-47 and 49-62 have been allowed over the prior art of record. Claims 44, 48, 63, and 64 have been rejected. By this amendment, claims 44, 48, 54, and 62-64 are amended.

The Examiner suggested that "preferably" should be deleted for clarity from claims 54 and 64. Claims 54 and 64 have accordingly been amended without narrowing their scope in order to expedite prosecution. The Examiner also suggested that "use" claims 62-64 be rewritten in positive steps. Claims 62-64 have accordingly been amended without narrowing their scope in order to expedite prosecution. The Examiner indicated that claims 44, 48, 63, and 64 would be allowable if rewritten or amended as to form. By this Amendment, claims 44, 48, 63, and 64 have been corrected without narrowing the scope in order to expedite prosecution by removing the informalities noted by the Examiner. It should be noted that the amendment of the noted claims occurred in response to a rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, and in no way should be construed as narrowing the claims to overcome prior art.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

The Examiner has indicated that none of the prior art of record teaches nor suggests the claimed features of dehydrating natural gas with a turbulent contactor as defined in

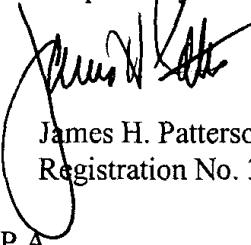
instant claims 33, 56, and 62. Applicant respectfully submits that multiple elements of the present claims are not taught or suggested by the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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